

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A surface-coated cutting tool (1) according to the present invention includes a base material (2) and a coated film (3) formed on the base material (2). The coated film (3) serves as an outermost layer on the base material (2) and has compressive stress. The compressive stress is varied so as to have strength distribution in a direction of thickness of the coated film (3). The strength distribution is characterized in that the compressive stress at a surface of the coated film continuously decreases from the surface of the coated film toward a first intermediate point located between the surface of the coated film and a bottom surface of the coated film and the compressive stress attains a relative minimum point at the first intermediate point.